[English]

Amendment to Delhi School Education Act

4157. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Delhi School Education Act, 1973 to provide pension and retirement facilities to those teachers and employees of the Government Aided Schools who were retired from February 1971 to December 31, 1973;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this proposed amendments are likely to be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Impact of Agino Moto on Human Body

4158. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agino Moto, MSG (monsodium of lucomate), a flavour booster, is a harmful substance;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any representations for banning the use of MSG;

(c) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), and expert body constituted by Food & Agriculture Organisation/World Health Organisation has opined that the use of this chemical at the level necessary to achieve the desired technological effect and from their acceptable background in food do not represent a hazard to health.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

River water pollution in West Bengal

4159. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jalangi, Churni and Ichamati river waters in West Bengal have been polluted as a result of the effluents released by the Sugar Factories for the adjoining areas; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check this water pollution there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). As per available information, all the four sugar mills in West Bengal have been closed for some years. However, the pollution in the Churni River is reportedly caused due to discharge of effluents from sugar mills in Bangladesh. Appropriate action has been initiated on this.

[Translation]

Implementation of Plus 2 Education

4160. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: